Operations) would meet to hold talks. The two sides agreed to conclude a bilateral visa agreement and an agreement on consular access and also to revise the Protocol on Visits to Religious Places during the 4th round of the Composition Dialogue. On the prisoners issue the two sides agreed that the proposed Committee on Prisoners to ensure humane treatment and expeditious release of prisoners on both sides would be composed of four retired judges from each side.

Pakistani nationals in India

2610. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani nationals, that have come to India to watch cricket match from Pakistan;

(b) the number that have returned back to Pakistan, till now; and

(c) the number that have not returned till now?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A total of 6077 Pak nationals came to India to watch the cricket matches at Mohali, Bangalore and Delhi in 2005. Further, 137 Pak nationals visited India to watch the Champion's Trophy in 2006.

(b) Of the 6077 Pak nationals who came to India in 2005, 6044 returned to Pakistan. All 137 Pak nationals who came in 2006 returned to Pakistan.

(c) 33 Pakistani nationals who did not go back to their country are still missing.

Samjhauta rail accident

2611. PROF P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians and Pakistanis who died in 'Samjhauta' rail accident;

(b) whether Government have sought the assistance of Pakistan Government in the investigation thereof;

(c) Pakistan's reaction in this matter; and

(d) the progress of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In the blast on 18 February 2007 in Delhi-Attari Express, the link train of Samjhauta express, 68 people were killed and 12 injured. Out of the 49 dead bodies identified, 40 were of Pakistani nationals. The identified dead bodies were handed over to their relatives.

(b) to (d) The investigation is currently in progress. Government expect that the Government of Pakistan will provide access to the Pakistani passengers of the train if required for the investigation.

Children kept hostage in Malaysia

†2612. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 27 children of Jamshedpur situated in Jharkhand are kept hostage in Malaysia;

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, whether Government would take necessary steps for the release of these children after investigating the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government have seen news reports stating that twenty seven children from Jamshedpur, Jharkhand have been held as hostages in Malaysia. The Indian High Commission in Malaysia has requested the local authorities to investigate the matter on a priority basis.

Killing of fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy

2613. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Government has taken any steps to stop the killing of innocent fishermen of Tamil Nadu by Sri Lankan Navy;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with Sri Lankan authorities;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.